

Family Self-Sufficiency News

Computers for Self-Sufficiency

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We live in a digital age and having a computer at home is practically a necessity. This fall, the Department of Housing and Community Development teamed up with the San Diego Futures Foundation to offer computers to 38 FSS families. These families were selected based on answers from their 2005 Annual Family Self-Sufficiency Update. The computers that were given away are three-year old Dell computers that were previously used by staff at a variety of county offices before they were refurbished and loaded with a variety of software programs. These lucky clients can now become familiar with a computer, learn basic word processing, practice their typing skills, edit photos, and much more from the comfort of their own home. The computers are even loaded with educational software programs and games for the kids. Although the families are responsible for obtaining an internet provider to be able to access the internet, the computers are already loaded with a web-browser, anti-virus software, and a program that scans for adware and spyware that can slow computers down. Congratulations to all of the families who picked up their computers.



Program Coordinating Committee

What is the Program Coordinating Committee (PCC)? According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), it is a committee whose role is to assist the Housing Authority in securing commitments of public and private resources for the operation of the FSS program. Regulations state that the PCC shall consist of representatives from the Housing Authority and Section 8 participants. Membership in the PCC may also include representatives from local government, local JOBS training programs, welfare and employment agencies, public and private education or training institutions, child care providers, nonprofit service providers, private business, and any other public and private service providers with resources to assist the FSS program. Our PCC meets quarterly to discuss the progress of the program and talk about the needs of the participants.



East County Career Center

In the last newsletter you read about the South County Career Center. This time we're highlighting the East County Career Center (ECCC) for those of you who live in East County. The ECCC is located at 924 East Main Street in El Cajon. Like the South County Career Center, ECCC has counselors to help with referrals to training, find your way around the computer lab and online job databases. They also offer career assessments, GED classes, computer software classes, typing tests, youth employment services and much more. They offer orientations daily at 1pm. Representatives from the Regional Occupational Program (ROP), Employment Development Department (EDD), and the Department of Rehab can also be found at the ECCC.



924 East Main Street, El Cajon
Corner of East Main Street and Mollison

The ECCC is an excellent and free resource for you if you are looking for a job or training, or even if you are thinking about changing careers. Call the East County Career Center at (619) 590-3900 for more information or visit them on the web at: <http://eccc.guhsd.net/>. Looking for work or training? They can help!

County Jobs

Every week the Department of Human Resources for the County of San Diego updates their job listing. You can see the listing on the web at

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hr/jobs/currentrecruitments.html>.

While you're there, you can also look at job descriptions and salary ranges – just look under the Salaries section on the left side of their website.



Student Worker/Internship Jobs with the County of San Diego

The County has a Student Worker/Internship program that is designed to encourage students to become interested in a career with the County of San Diego. Students are encouraged to apply for positions that are related to the field of their study or interest. To be considered for one of these jobs, you must be a full time student and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average. Work schedules vary based on the students schedule and will be no more than 20 hours per week while school is in session. High school, undergraduate college and post graduate students encouraged to contact the personnel office for the County Department they are interested in working for. You can learn about each of the departments and what they do by looking at their websites. You can find a directory on the County's website at www.sdcounty.ca.gov. The County of San Diego employs over 15,000 people who provide services in a variety of areas. Opportunities include: secretarial and administrative, law enforcement, investigators of many types, social workers, warehouse workers, inspectors of different kinds, medical, food services, accountants and account clerks, and a variety of jobs in the legal field.



2-1-1 San Diego

Looking for fast and free information on community and health services? Look no further. 2-1-1 is the new three-digit phone number for many of your needs. The 2-1-1 number has been set aside by the FCC for the public to use to get information on a wide variety of subjects. If you are familiar with INFO LINE, then you already know a lot about 2-1-1. INFO LINE operates the San Diego 2-1-1 service. 2-1-1 has been around for years in other parts of the country and recently debuted in San Diego. Anytime, day or night, if you are looking for referrals or information on services from adoptions to child care, parenting to volunteering, give 2-1-1 a call or visit them on the web at www.211sandiego.org. In addition to providing routine information, 2-1-1 San Diego also serves as a central disaster hotline. They have been very involved in collecting and giving out information for both survivors of hurricane Katrina and for those wanting to help them.



Get Money Smart!



Want to become more financially savvy? Want to do it in the comfort of your own home? The Money Smart Training Program may be for you. Money Smart is an adult education program offered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The Money Smart program can be accessed over the internet or on your home computer. Modules include information such as:

- \$ Borrowing Basics – an introduction to credit
- \$ Money Matters – how to keep track of your money
- \$ Pay yourself first – why you should save, save, save
- \$ Borrowing Basics – how your credit history will affect your credit future
- \$ Your Own Home – what home ownership is all about

Visit Money Smart on the web to get started online or to order your own free CD.

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/index.html>

Walking Club - Starts October 17

Many of us have health related goal in addition to the educational and career related goals in the FSS program. Since 2004, many County departments have staff participating in Walking Clubs as part of the County's Work Safe/Stay Healthy program. We are pleased to be able to extend the program to FSS participants as well.

What do you need to do? Make a commitment to walk regularly and exercise more. During this 12 week program, we will email you weekly tips on walking and exercising. At the end of each week, you let us know how many miles you walked during the week. At the end of the 12 weeks we'll compare how well the FSS team did compared to the HCD walking teams.

If you are interested in participating, please send us an email: Deborah.Dyar@sdcounty.ca.gov

New FSS Web Page Debuts

Your FSS program now has a web page! This web page lists resources available to the public that you can take advantage of as well as gives information about the program for prospective participants. When it's time for the annual update, the form will be there for you to complete and email back to us.

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/sdhcd/renters/fss.html



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Community Development
Catherine J. Trout, Director

Do we have your email address?

Do we have your email address? I run across many interesting stories and resources each month. If you have an email address, please make sure to give it to me if you haven't already. I will try to send out information by email as I get it. Some of this information will make it into the newsletter.

Here is what you missed out on if we don't have your email address yet:

- * Jobs with FEMA
- * Weekly County Job listings
- * Job and Career Fairs
- * Homebuyer seminars



If you have changed your email address or recently started receiving email, please drop me a quick email so I can add you to my list.

Feel free to email me with your questions, suggestions, or comments. I try to respond to all email within 24 hours.

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Building Better Neighborhoods

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